Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-58 (cancelled)
59-78 (cancelled)
79-216 (cancelled)

217. (new) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising in admixture:
an alginic acid or a salt thereof;
a water-soluble carbonate radical precursor;
a calcium salt; and
a first bulk sweetener, wherein the composition is in powder form.

218. (new) The composition of claim 217, wherein said alginic acid or salt thereof is present in an amount from about 70 to about 500 mg per unit dose of the composition.

219. (new) The composition of claim 217, wherein said carbonate radical precursor is selected from the group consisting of a carbonate of an alkali metal, a bicarbonate of an alkali metal, a carbonate of an alkaline earth metal, a bicarbonate of an alkaline earth metal, and combinations thereof.

220. (new) The composition of claim 217, wherein said carbonate radical precursor is selected from the group consisting of potassium bicarbonate, sodium bicarbonate, and a combination thereof.

221. (new) The composition of claim 217, wherein said carbonate radical precursor is partially replaced by sodium or potassium phosphate in a % w/w amount.

222. (new) The composition of claim 221 wherein said carbonate radical precursor is present in an amount from about 50 to about 200 mg per unit dose of the composition.

223. (new) The composition of claim 217, wherein said calcium salt is selected from the group consisting of calcium citrate, calcium maleate, calcium citrate maleate, calcium carbonate, calcium lactate, calcium glyceryl phosphate, calcium phosphate, and combinations thereof.

224. (new) The composition of claim 223, wherein said calcium salt is calcium carbonate.

225. (new) The composition of claim 223, wherein said calcium salt is present in an amount from about 100 to about 1000 mg free calcium per unit dose of the composition.

226. (new) The composition of claim 217, which further comprises the addition of magnesium or aluminum cation in the form of an antacid.

227. (new) The composition of claim 226, wherein the magnesium or aluminum antacid is selected from the group consisting of magnesium carbonate, magnesium oxide, magnesium hydroxide, magnesium aluminate, aluminum hydroxide, or aluminum magnesium hydroxide; or combinations thereof.

228. (new) The composition of claim 217, which further comprises a binding agent.

229. (new) The composition of claim 217, wherein said first bulk sweetener is a sugar selected from the group consisting of dextrose, sucrose, lactose, confectionery sugar, powdered sugar, dextrin, fructose, glucose, polydextrose, sorbitol, malititol, maltose, mannitol, xylitol, and combinations thereof; and further wherein a portion of the first bulk sweetener is optionally replaced by gelatin or casein.

230 (new) The composition of claim 229, wherein said first bulk sweetener is present in an amount about 10 % to about 30 % w/w of a unit dose of the composition.

231 (new) The composition of claim 217, wherein said carbonate radical precursor is present a compound different than that of said calcium salt.

232 (new) The composition of claim 229, wherein said first bulk sweetener is mannitol.

233. (new) The composition according to claim 228, wherein said binding agent is a starch selected from the group consisting of corn starch, modified corn starch, wheat starch, modified wheat starch, Starch 1500, pre-gelatinized starch, and combinations thereof.

234. (new) The composition according to claim 234, wherein said starch is corn starch or modified corn starch.

235. (new) The composition according to claim 233, wherein said starch is present in an amount from about 1 % to about 15 % w/w.

236 (new) The composition according to claim 228, wherein the binding agent is a low-viscosity cellulosic derivative selected from the group consisting of carbomer, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, methylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, microcrystalline cellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, methylcellulose, and combinations thereof.

237. (new) The composition according to claim 237, wherein said cellulosic derivative is present in an amount from about 1 % to about 10 % w/w per unit dose of the composition.

238. (new) The composition according to claim 238, wherein said binding agent is a natural gum selected from the group consisting of pectin, gelatin, gum arabic, acacia, carrageenan, guar, tragacanth, and combinations thereof.

239. (new) The composition according to claim 238, wherein said natural gum is present in an amount from about 0.5 % to about 7 % w/w of the unit dose of the composition.

240. (new) The composition according to claim 228, wherein said binding agent is selected from the group consisting of povidone, maltodextrin, a polaxomer, a polydextrose, polyethylene glycol, a polymethacrylate, and combinations thereof.

241. (new) The composition according to claim 228, wherein said binding agent is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene oxide, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, polyvinyl alcohol, calcium polycarbophil, HPMC (medium viscosity), and polyethylene glycol (PEG); or combinations thereof and/or combinations with other binding agents.

242. (new) The composition of claim 228, wherein the binding agent is selected from the group consisting of a starch, a polymer, a natural gum, a low viscosity cellulosic derivative, a medium viscosity cellulosic derivative and combinations thereof.